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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 ACDA-07
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9327

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AR, US
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON FMS REDUCTION

1. ACCOMPANIED BY DCM AND POLCOUNS I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER GUZZETTI THIS MORNING. I INFORMED HIM THAT I WOULD BE REMAINING AT POST UNTIL MY SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED. HE HAS NOT YET BEEN NAMED, BUT PROBABLY WILL BE WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS AND I WILL KEEP THE MINISTER INFORMED.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER GUZZETTI RAISED QUESTION OF REDUCTION IN FMS. HE SAID GOA IS NOW STUDYING THE SITUATION CAREFULLY AND WITHIN THE NEXT 48 HOURS WILL MAKE A DECISION AS TO HOW TO REACT TO TWO SEPARATE ASPECTS OF THE REDUCTION. FIRST, HE SAID SECRETARY OF STATE'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CONGRESS MARKS THE FIRST TIME THE USC HAS OPENLY CONDEMNED THE GOA ON THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IN THE PAST WE HAVE HANDLED THE MATTER BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS BUT NOW THE USC HAS TAKEN A STEP AGAINST THE GOA AND HAS PUBLICLY ATTRIBUTED THAT STEP TO HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA. THE GOA MUST DECIDE WHETHER AND/OR HOW IT SHOULD RESPOND TO THIS DEVELOPMENT. SECONDLY, HE SAID, THE GOA IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF ANNOUNCING THAT IT WILL NOT UTILIZE EVEN THE REDUCED FY 78 CREDITS.

3. I ASKED THE FOREIGN MINISTER HOW THIS MIGHT AFFECT THE

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MILITARY MISSION, INASMUCH AS ITS PRINCIPAL FUNCTION WAS RELATED TO GRANT TRAINING, WHICH SO FAR HAS NOT BEEN REDUCED, RATHER THAN FMS. FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW, THE QUESTION OF THE MISSION'S FUTURE WAS NOT EVEN UNDER STUDY AND THAT AT THIS POINT THERE WAS NO INTENTION ON THE PART OF THE GOA TO ASK IT TO LEAVE.

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTER PROMISED TO KEEP ME INFORMED AND TO LET ME KNOW IMMEDIATELY THE DECISIONS OF THE GOA WITH RESPECT TO TWO POINTS CITED ABOVE. I TOLD HIM I THOUGHT IT WAS IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST TO REMAIN CALM AND TO HAVE PATIENCE WITH A VIEW TO MINIMIZING THE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

5. I RAISED SITUATION OF THE ROSSINI CHILD (BUENOS AIRES 1457) WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, EXPLAINING THE INTEREST OF THE AMCIT FAMILY IN THE U. S. IN ADOPTING THE CHILD IF HE CAN BE FOUND. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE WOULD CHECK IMMEDIATELY TO SEE IF CHILD IS IN ANY OF THE ORPHANAGES WHERE CHILDREN OF DECEASED TERRORISTS ARE USUALLY PLACED. HE PROMISED TO LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. SHORTLY AFTER WE RETURNED TO EMBASSY, UNDERSECRETARY ALLARA CALLED TO ADVISE US THAT GOA PLANS TO ISSUE COMMUNIQUE AT NOON TODAY; COMMUNIQUE WILL EXPRESS CONCERN OF GOA WITH ATTITUDE OF

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP
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USG REFLECTED IN SECRETARY OF STATE'S TESTIMONY BEFORE CONGRESS.
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